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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 4 January 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with instructions received from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the press communiqué issued on 3 January 2000 by the Government of the Argentine Republic on the occasion of another anniversary of the illegitimate British occupation of the Malvinas Islands (see annex).

The communiqué in question underscores the continued existence of a dispute over sovereignty between the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. The search for a peaceful settlement of this dispute is an ongoing objective of Argentina, which is enshrined in its National Constitution. In light of this, the Argentine Government once again confirms its rights of sovereignty over the southern archipelagos and waters and declares its broad intention to conduct negotiations in order to search for a definitive resolution of this question.

I should be grateful if you would have this note and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 52.

(*Signed*) Ana Maria **Ramirez**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Press communiqué issued in Buenos Aires on 3 January 2000 by the Government of the Argentine Republic on the occasion of the anniversary of the illegitimate British occupation of the Malvinas Islands

On 3 January 1833, British forces occupied the Malvinas Islands, expelling their inhabitants and the Argentine authorities established there. Since today marks the 167th anniversary of that illegitimate occupation, the Argentine people and Government reaffirm the Argentine Republic's imprescriptible rights of sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

The Government reiterates on this occasion the unfailing determination of the Argentine people, enshrined in the National Constitution, to recover the full exercise of sovereignty over the territories and maritime areas referred to by means of a peaceful settlement of the disputes in accordance with international law, respecting the way of life and interests of the inhabitants of the Islands.

The Argentine Government declares its firm intention to continue making headway in the dialogue with the United Kingdom in order to consolidate a relationship of mutual trust and expand bilateral cooperation.

It is the belief of the Argentine Government that the resumption of the negotiations on the question of sovereignty, in accordance with the numerous and ongoing appeals by the international community, will help to create a favourable framework for achieving a just and definitive settlement of the dispute.